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an undertaking, so creditable to themselves, and so eminently useful to the country.

It would be a great thing, if the hint should be taken from this beginning, to extend the plan to the state legislatures. A work, which should embrace the annual messages of the governors in the different states, and some of the most important documents accompanying them, and also an abstract of the proceedings of the legislatures on those subjects, which are calculated to have a permanent effect on the institutions of any state, or which have a national bearing, such a work, in connexion with Gales and Seaton's Debates, would constitute as perfect a historical register of passing events, as could be desired. The whole might be compassed in two volumes, not exceeding in dimensions the volume of debates. Such a work, moreover, would tend to give solidity to the government, by diffusing political information, and inducing a uniformity of action in the different legislatures. It would be a record of the opinions, and a repository of the wisdom, of our statesmen in every part of the Union, and the light elicited by each would serve to illuminate and guide all the others.

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7.—*A Lecture delivered at the Opening of the Medical Department of the Columbian College, in the District of Columbia; March 30, 1825.* By THOMAS SEWALL, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology. Washington City. 8vo. pp. 80.

By an admirable union of industry and good judgment, Dr Sewall has contrived to condense into a single discourse, an abstract of the history of the medical science, and a complete body of the medical statistics, of the United States. We know not where so large a mass of curious and instructive facts, on any one subject, can be found within the same compass, as is here collected, on the progress of medicine in this country. The lecturer begins by showing, that almost nothing was done, in the way of medical improvement, during the first century and a half after the landing of the original settlers. For many years, it was customary for clergymen to perform the office of physicians, and regular and well directed modes of practice gained ground very slowly in the colonies. The causes of this slow advancement of the science are briefly, but satisfactorily explained by Dr Sewall. In addition to the unfavorable circumstances attending new settlements, the period would appear to have been one, in which medicine was at a low ebb, and nearly at a stand, throughout Europe.

The first medical school in this country was founded at Philadelphia, in the year 1765. From that time the science began to advance with rapidity, and many eminent men have been found in ranks of the profession, who have sustained its dignity, and contributed to its improvement. The schools of New York, Harvard College, Dartmouth College, and of Maryland, were successively established, the last in 1807. Since that date, there have been twelve other medical schools instituted in different parts of the United States, all of which are now in successful operation. 'One hundred and fiftyeight years of our history elapsed,' says Dr Sewall, 'after the first settlement of America, before a single medical school existed in the country. In the fortyseven years that followed, five medical schools were founded, and in the twelve succeeding years, which period completes our history, no less than twelve have been added to the number. Sixty years ago, when but one school existed in the country, only ten students enjoyed the benefit of medical lectures. Twelve years afterwards, when only five schools were established, not more than five hundred students attended lectures; while the sixteen medical schools now existing impart instruction to nearly two thousand pupils.' Besides these schools, there are in the different states twenty Medical Societies, incorporated by the legislatures, and embracing a large proportion of the most respectable physicians in the Union. These societies are 'formed for the regulation of the practice of physic, and the suppression of quackery,' and their tendency is to produce a good understanding and harmony among the members of the profession.

The *Notes* to Dr Sewall's Lecture contain many interesting particulars, respecting the science of medicine in this country, and particularly biographical sketches of a large number of our most eminent physicians.

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8.—*A Discourse delivered in the Chapel of Nassau Hall, before the Literary and Philosophical Society of New Jersey, at its first Annual Meeting, September 27, 1825.* By SAMUEL MILLER, D. D. Princeton. 8vo. pp. 40. D. A. Borrenstein.

FEW pens in this country have been more prolific in various branches of theology, than that of Dr Miller; but his labors have not been confined to that department. His *Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century* is a work, which manifests deep research into the political, literary, and scientific history of that period, and though hastily composed, considering its magnitude and the immense variety of its topics, yet it contains a body of facts and